

## You're Here!! (Now What?)

### TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITIES (TLFs)

When you first arrive, you will likely live in a Temporary Living Facility (TLF) in the area before moving into your new home. As soon as you have orders in hand, you or your sponsor may make a TLF reservation through Ramstein Lodging, Central Reservations (Building 305, Room 12. Phone: DSN 480-4920 or commercial 06371 47 4920).

Ramstein Lodging will determine whether you'll reside on- or off-base. If government quarters are available, you may be lodged at Ramstein Air Base, Vogelweh or Sembach. Without access to a car, Ramstein will be your best option – government transportation is not available between sites. Those with pets please see page 14 for details on your lodging and kennel options.

If you're authorized for an off-base TLF, request a list of local hotels from your sponsor or from Ramstein Lodging. You may also want to browse the classifieds in the *Kaiserslautern American* - commonly called "the KA" (online at [www.kaiserslauternamerican.com](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com)). You'll need to request a letter of non-availability (and a confirmation number) from the Ramstein Lodging Office. Pick up the form (in person) up to 48 hours prior to your check-in date. You'll need the non-availability form to collect your Temporary Living Allowance (TLA).

For more information on the TLF process and your authorized TLA, please contact your sponsor or the Vogelweh or Ramstein Housing Office (introduced in "Finding a Home"). The free *Kaiserslautern Military Community Welcome Guide* CD (available from your sponsor or orderly room) also provides a useful overview of the TLF/TLA process.



### NAVIGATION

To find your way around the area, you may want to pick up (or request from your sponsor or the orderly room) a detailed regional map from the Vogelweh or Ramstein Housing Office as

well as a copy of the free *Find-It Guide*, which includes a series of regional maps (also online at [www.finditguide.de/maps.php](http://www.finditguide.de/maps.php)).

Websites such as [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), [www.map24.com](http://www.map24.com), and [www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com) provide good directions to specific locations. Many families also use GPS navigator systems here.

## FINDING A HOME

The Vogelweh Housing Management and Referral Office (Building 1001. Phone: DSN 489-6671/2 or commercial 0631 536 6671/2) serves the entire Kaiserslautern Military Community (known as “the KMC”). Sign in at Vogelweh upon arrival to begin your house-hunting expedition. Directions to the Vogelweh Housing Office, located in the Vogelweh Housing complex, are listed at the end of this section.

After an initial visit to Vogelweh, you may conduct all other housing business at the more conveniently located Ramstein Housing Office (Building 2410. Phone: DSN 480-3140/3141 or commercial 06371 47 3140/3141). Directions are listed at the end of this section.

The Baumholder Housing Management and Referral Office (Building 8876. Phone: DSN 485-7585 or commercial 06783 67585), about 40 minutes from Ramstein, also offers housing services. Baumholder releases its own list of rental properties. If you use Baumholder’s services, however, you must use the Baumholder Housing Office for the entire lease process.

For those using Vogelweh and Ramstein Housing Office services, you’ll be provided access to information on both on- and off-base options. If interested in on-base homes, please discuss locations and availability with the Housing Office. If you’re authorized to live off base and choose to do so, the Housing Office releases a printed list of rental properties each business day at 7:30 a.m. You must go to either the Vogelweh or Ramstein Housing Office to pick up the list.

To maximize your options at this point, one spouse advises that you “request a complete print-out of all the houses available to rent, including the houses that have been on the market for a while.” Be ready to act, another adds: “New homes are added every day. But sign quickly if you find one you like; they go fast.”

If time permits, you may also consider locating and driving by listed properties using a GPS navigator system (on loan from the housing office or for purchase from the PowerZone at Vogelweh, Ramstein or Baumholder) before scheduling walk-throughs. One family reports, “This is a quick way to eliminate houses that don’t meet your needs and keeps you from wasting time on a walk-through of something you don’t like.”

Another family recommends that newcomers “decide on two or three priorities for your family and be more flexible on the others.” For example, you may want to consider one or

more of the following criteria: school district, adequate off-street parking, accessibility to autobahn, distance to base, yard, number of bedrooms, Internet access, storage, price (rent plus utilities, and other fees) or garage.

In addition to the Housing Office list, you may use (at your own risk) a realtor. Most brokers will charge at least one month's rent (not reimbursed by the government) to help you find a great place. But it can save you time by narrowing down your options. Newcomers use different methods to find homes in this way. You may find realtors in the KA classifieds. You may also try exploring villages a certain driving distance from Ramstein and visiting realtors ("Immobilien") in the villages that interest you.

German newspapers, such as the free weekly *Wochenblatt*, also list homes for sale and rent. It's good opportunity to practice your German while seeking your new home!

If concerned about school districts, you may want to review the KMC bus route (online at [www.kais-dso.eu.dodea.edu/Transportation/Rams\\_Land\\_busses.htm](http://www.kais-dso.eu.dodea.edu/Transportation/Rams_Land_busses.htm)). One family visited villages in a desired school district and found a few newly-built houses, some of which may have landed on the Housing Office list. The family got the first showing, negotiated the rent, and moved in.

For those who *do* find homes not listed by the Vogelweh and Ramstein Housing Office, you'll need to have the home inspected and approved by the Housing Office prior to signing a lease. This process may take some time to complete.

Once you're ready to move forward with the rental contract, you'll work with the Housing Office to finalize the lease. We recommend a careful review of your contract. Get verbal agreements in writing and communicate with your landlord on your responsibilities for water, gas, heating oil, electricity, Internet, satellite installation, garbage pick-up, yard care, shoveling snow, etc.

On shoveling snow, you'll want to be aware of German laws regarding snow removal. The KA reviews the latest requirements online at [www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News\\_7/Get\\_on\\_the\\_snow\\_patrol.shtml](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News_7/Get_on_the_snow_patrol.shtml).

You may also want to confirm your Internet connection (DSL, satellite or dial-up) in the home by talking with your landlord and/or Internet company of choice before signing a lease. "Make sure the house is capable of high-speed Internet, if that is a priority for you," urges a spouse.

For loaner furniture, the Furnishings Management Office (FMO) representatives at the Ramstein Housing Office arrange loans and delivery of basic furniture items like couches, beds and wardrobes. (Building 2410. Phone: DSN 480-3140/3141 or commercial 06371 47 3140/3141.) Appliances – transformers, washers, dryers, refrigerators and microwaves – are also available for loan. Bring a copy of your orders and a rental agreement to the FMO representative to start the process. Also pick up the FMO's informative pamphlet on loaner items and voltage requirements.

*Please note:* The Housing Offices at Vogelweh and Ramstein close on all German and U.S. holidays (dates listed online at <http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/holidays.html>). Goal or family days may also fall during the week you plan to arrive. Please check with your sponsor or the orderly room for updated calendar information.

The Vogelweh Housing Management and Referral Office (Building 1001. Phone: DSN 489-6671/2 or commercial 0631 536 6671/2) can be tricky to find. *Directions:* The office is located in the Vogelweh Housing complex in Kaiserslautern. From A6 heading toward Mannheim, take Exit 15 (Kaiserslautern-West, Waldfischbach, Opel). Follow the signs on the exit for Waldfischbach. You will be on the B270. From here, stay toward the right and take the third exit off this road (first exit is for Opel, second exit will take you toward Landstuhl) following the sign for Kaiserslautern. This puts you on Pariserstrasse. As you get onto Pariserstrasse (stay in the right lane), you'll see military housing on your right. Turn right from Pariserstrasse onto Arizona Street to enter the Vogelweh Housing/Golf 8 Gate. Once on base, follow Arizona Street to the stop sign. Take a right onto Colorado Street. Follow Colorado to the traffic circle. Take your first right from the circle. Drive by the school. Continue to follow this road to the Florida Loop. Take a right at the loop. Take a right onto First Avenue. The Housing Office is located on your right.

The Ramstein Housing Office (Building 2410. Phone: DSN 480-3140/3141 or commercial 06371 47 3140/3141) is located on Mitchell Avenue. *Directions:* From the West Gate, drive through three traffic lights to the large traffic circle. Take the first right out of the circle onto Mitchell Ave (heading toward the flight line). Go through the traffic light. The Housing Office is located on your right across the street from the Southside Post Office.

## UTILITIES

The staff at the VAT/Utilities office at Ramstein (Building 2118. Phone: DSN 480-5309 or commercial 06371 47 5309) will help you set up utilities in your new home. Pick up information sheets (utility companies by region, UTAP program details, more) at check in.

Your landlord, previous tenants or your neighbors may also be able to help you find and select the best options for your home.

You may also have questions about voltage requirements. In addition to the FMO's pamphlet, our advice and information follows:

- "Bring any small appliances and lamps that you would like to continue using and buy (at any BX, thrift shop or from the classifieds in the KA) transformers and adapters (as needed) once you arrive."

- “Smaller appliances that have heating elements (such as coffee pots and hair dryers) require large transformers which can be quite expensive. For these items, it may be cheaper and easier to buy a 220-volt model.”
- “The Base Thrift Shops are a great place for incoming people to get used transformers and 220 appliances without paying full retail costs.” Thrift stores are located in Building 3818 on Landstuhl, Building 2901 on Pulaski, Building 90 on Sembach and Building 1200 (next to the commissary) on Ramstein.

## PHONE SERVICE

As in the U.S., you have many options for phone service here. You may find the overview at [www.howtogermany.com/pages/telephone.html](http://www.howtogermany.com/pages/telephone.html) helpful in decoding the telephone industry in Germany.

More advice and information on phone service follows:

- Deutsche Telekom - also known as T-Com - offers phone and Internet services. The company offers package deals (such as Call and Surf) and rate plan. In one new rate plan, T-Com charges € 3.95 per month for all calls to other European countries; plus, all calls to the U.S. and Canada are included.



A T-Com user pamphlet - posted online at [www.eventful-communications.de/downloads/2005/t-net-bed-eng-eventfulcomms.pdf](http://www.eventful-communications.de/downloads/2005/t-net-bed-eng-eventfulcomms.pdf) - provides instructions (in English) on setting up your voicemail. English-speaking representatives at the T-Punkt office in Landstuhl (Kaiserstrasse 135. Phone: 06371 914 230) can assist you in setting up an account.

*Directions to T-Punkt in Landstuhl:* From Ramstein AB, exit the West Gate, go straight through the traffic circle, and follow the signs for Landstuhl. Take the road to a “T” intersection. Take a left there onto Kaiserstrasse. Follow Kaiserstrasse (staying left at the light in Landstuhl). You will see the sign for T-Punkt on your left across from the Aral gas station. Parking in front.

- “TKS at Ramstein and Vogelweh offers both phone and Internet services. The company provides bills and technical support in English. Because of this level of service, they cost more than other service providers. The first TKS bill will be very expensive because it includes all of the setup costs, as well as two months of service. Expect a \$300 bill (depending on the exchange rate).” Make sure you sign up for DSL at the same time as phone service to get the best rate plan. (Phone: 0631 2070. Online at [www.tkscable.com](http://www.tkscable.com).)
- Bunt Communications in Landstuhl (Phone: 06371 60753. Online at [www.bunt.com](http://www.bunt.com)) offers cable and telephone service through Kabel Deutschland, among other carriers. One user appreciates the “great English-speaking staff” and advises that customer service issues be addressed through Bunt. Bills are in German.
- “For long-distance calls, you may use companies which require you to type in a code at the beginning of your call for cheaper rates. One option: Dial 01015 + the country code + the number to make long-distance calls. Another: 01051+ the country code + the number. The amount of the call per minute is provided in German before the call is connected. Accept the rate by continuing the call. Hang up if you don’t like the rate and try again another time. Test it and see if the rates work for you. You will see the charges for these calls on your phone bills.”
- “Phone costs are very high calling between cell phones and land lines (as opposed to cell-to-cell or land-to-land). We use our Vonage (voice over Internet) from the states for calling home. We pay our flat monthly fee and people calling us from the states are calling a stateside number.” (Online at [www.vonage.com](http://www.vonage.com))
- “Signing up for cell phone service will give you immediate phone service,” says one spouse. “Your land line may take a few weeks.” One option: Stop by one of the T-Mobile Shops (in the Ramstein BX or next to the Vogelweh PowerZone) for contract or pre-paid card phones.
- “For those with high-speed Internet, you can sign up with [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and have your friends/family at home sign up...you will be able to talk via computer (if you have a mic/or webcam) and it is free!!!!”

## INTERNET SERVICE

DSL is not available in all homes. Check with your landlord, previous tenants, and with the company you plan to use for Internet service (for example, [www.t-online.de](http://www.t-online.de)) to assess the availability of high-speed Internet in the home you are considering. For an overview of Internet services in Germany, try [www.howtogermy.com/pages/telephone.html](http://www.howtogermy.com/pages/telephone.html).



When you first arrive, you may access the Internet for free at any of the base libraries or community centers. Some of these locations also offer Wi-Fi access. Free wireless Internet access is also available at the USO in the Ramstein Passenger Terminal (2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Open until 2300).

More information and advice follows:

- “TKS DSL service is [available] through the telephone network and is very reliable. Some towns get DSL service by a microwave antenna and it is not as reliable as the traditional telephone network. Some of the more remote towns don’t have ... high-speed Internet service so [you’ll] have to use dial-up.”
- Satellite service is also available in the region. Check the KA ([www.kaiserslauternamerican.com](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com)) for offers.

## AFN/SATELLITE/CABLE

You will need a multi-system TV (available for purchase at the Vogelweh, Ramstein or Baumholder PowerZone) to receive SKY TV and other satellite programming off base. TKS Cable, serving the base housing areas, also requires a multi-system TV. American TVs can receive AFN but not other programming.

More advice and information follows:

- AFN receivers and satellites are available for purchase at any PowerZone (Vogelweh, Baumholder, even Heidelberg). You may also rent receivers using your Military Star Card account (\$13 per month). Used receivers may be available for purchase: “Look for a used receiver at the PowerZone at Vogelweh [or Baumholder] - \$95 vs. \$270.” Also look in the classified ads of the KA ([www.kaiserslauternamerican.com](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com)) and *Stars and Stripes* ([www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)) for used receivers and dishes.
- SKY TV:
  - “Axel Satellite offers SKY TV. Fast service.” (Phone: 0634-514307. Online at [www.axel-sat.de](http://www.axel-sat.de))
  - “We opted for SKY TV because we are able to get more English-speaking channels than regular AFN or German cable. We get channels like the E! (Entertainment) Channel, Bravo, FX, Disney, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., CNN, Fox News, but NOT ESPN, only ESPN Classic. Set-up ran us about 420 euros, and monthly fee for premium package is 55 euros a month. [That price] includes all the channels mentioned above as well as movie channels.”

- “Beware of buying second-hand SKY Boxes; sometimes once the account is closed the cards cannot be reactivated, so you will be out the money you spent!”

## AUTOMOBILES

Drivers with “a valid reason” may be authorized a 30-day temporary driver’s license while studying for the United States Army Europe (USAREUR) driving test. To receive a temporary license, you’ll need your driver’s license, an international driver’s license (such as the AAA International Driving Permit) and a command letter from your squadron section commander. Bring these documents to the Ramstein Driver Testing/Licenses Office to request your temporary license. (Building 2106, Room 201, Ramstein. Phone: DSN 480-2394 or commercial 06371 47 2394) You may also schedule your test date and pick up study materials for the USAREUR driving test at this time.

A newcomer warns (and the Testing/Licenses Office confirms): “The temp license will be taken from you on the day you test (pass or fail!).” To study, you may access the USAREUR driver’s handbook and examination manual online at <http://rmv.hqusareur.army.mil>.

More auto-related information follows, by category:

### REQUIREMENTS

- USAREUR’s study guide (online at <http://rmv.hqusareur.army.mil>) covers all of the requirements for your car(s), such as a spare tire, emergency triangle, medical kit, reflective vests and car seats for children.
- German law requires drivers to mount tires labeled “M+S” or with a snowflake at the first sign of snow. You’ll want to replace tires with treads less than 4 millimeters. Chains may be rented from ADAC (to be used only with winter tires) for more treacherous roads. Failing to use appropriate tires on German roads in winter may result in fines, blame for auto accidents involving your vehicle, and denial of insurance claims after accidents. More information may be found in the KA online at [www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/Lifestyles\\_12/Motorists\\_must\\_recognize\\_winter\\_dangers\\_4779.shtml](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/Lifestyles_12/Motorists_must_recognize_winter_dangers_4779.shtml). Check for winter tires on rental cars, too. Please visit the KA online at [www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News\\_7/Rental\\_cars\\_may\\_not\\_have\\_snow\\_tires.shtml](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News_7/Rental_cars_may_not_have_snow_tires.shtml) for more information.



## SHIPPING

- A spouse advises: “You may wish to consider bringing your 4-wheel drive or a front wheel drive vehicle for driving in the winter snow and ice.”
- Smaller cars can also be useful: “If you have a choice, bring a smaller car with you,” one spouse notes. “Compact cars may get better gas mileage and may be easier to maneuver/park. Also, if you left a second car in the states, you might find it more affordable to ship it space-available than to purchase a second car here.”
- Shipping a car earlier (two weeks or more) is recommended. While waiting for the arrival of your auto(s), you can rent a car from a variety of companies (check out a selection of ads at [www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat\\_id=167](http://www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat_id=167)).

## BUYING AUTOS & ACCESSORIES

- The Ramstein lemon lot is located behind Building 2410. Both U.S.- and European-spec cars are offered for sale here. *Directions:* From the West Gate, drive through three traffic lights to the large traffic circle. Take your first right out of the circle onto Mitchell Ave (toward the flight line). Go through the traffic light. Building 2410 (the Housing Office) is located on your right, across the street from the Southside Post Office. The lemon lot is located behind this building.
- The Ramstein Auto Recycling Center (Building 5122, outside the East Gate. Phone: DSN 480-5827 or commercial 06371 47 5827) sells used cars, disposes of vehicles and offers a towing service. The Center also sells used-but-new emergency kits (required in vehicles) at a deep discount.
- The KA ([www.kaiserslauternamerican.com](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com)) and *Stars and Stripes* ([www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)) also advertise U.S.- and European-spec cars for sale.

## SERVICE

- “Ask any German shop if you can provide the oil for an oil change. The oil is much cheaper at base gas stations.”
- “If you have a used BMW, take it to Auto Service Plaul in Ramstein. Not only is it convenient to Ramstein AB, Herr Plaul does speak English and will not overdo/charge for repairs.” (Phone: 06371 51039.)
- “KUNAS Car Clinic in Ramstein (Phone: 06371 50961) has always provided me with exceptional service. They let you bring your oil and filter and that saves a lot of money.”

- “Join ADAC, the German version of AAA. They offer excellent service to anyone who has an accident or needs emergency medical care within Europe. Kaiserslautern has an office with an English-speaking staff.” (ADAC - Walsh Agency. Kaiserstrasse 6, Einsiedlerhof/Kaiserslautern. Phone: 06371 577 50.) *Directions:* From the Ramstein East Gate, follow the road to the traffic circle. Take the first right out of the traffic circle and follow the priority road over A6 through the big left turn. Continue to follow the priority road as it turns right across the bridge over the railroad tracks. After the bridge, turn left at the light to get onto Kaiserstrasse. ADAC is about .2 miles on your left.
- Car washing facility locations: At the Auto Skills Center on Ramstein; west of the shoppette (near the Pulaski gate) on Vogelweh; and at the gas station/shoppette on Landstuhl. More information can be found online at [www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat\\_id=29](http://www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat_id=29).
- Auto Skills Center locations: Landstuhl, Pulaski, Ramstein and Sembach. More information can be found online at [www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat\\_id=21](http://www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat_id=21).

## TRAVEL

- Drivers must have an international driver’s license (issued by AAA, for example, or by USAREUR) to drive in countries other than Germany. You will need to have the hard copy of your USAREUR license (not the temporary paper license) to apply for an international license through the USAREUR Testing/Licenses Office. The form for the international driver’s license is available online at <http://rmv.hqusareur.army.mil/ssintdrlic.htm>. Take this form and your USAREUR license to the Ramstein Driver Testing/Licenses Office to start the process.
- Add road tax stickers to your checklist and budget if you’re planning to drive in Switzerland or Austria. For Switzerland, you may pay the required road tax in advance (in euros or Swiss Francs) at ADAC or you may pay cash at the border. For Austria, you may purchase the sticker (in euros) at the border.
- You must use headlights to drive in daylight as well as at night in most European countries. You can be fined up to 200 euros for not using headlights at all times in countries other than Germany, France, Switzerland and Bulgaria. (Source: ADAC)
- If you plan to travel by car to Berlin, Hannover, Cologne, Mannheim or Stuttgart this year, you may need a (free) sticker that authorizes you to drive in new environmental protection zones established in these cities. Your car will need to meet certain emissions standards before you can receive the decal. Please call the Ramstein Driver Testing/Licenses Office at 06371 47 2394 for more information on this requirement. More information may be found online at

[www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News\\_7/Do\\_I\\_need\\_a\\_German\\_E\\_missions\\_Umweltzone\\_sticker.shtml](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News_7/Do_I_need_a_German_E_missions_Umweltzone_sticker.shtml).

## MISCELLANEOUS ADVICE

- “Take care in washing your car in your driveway: your neighbors may not like pollution caused by the soapy water runoff.”
- Tune your radio to AFN Kaiserslautern (FM 100.2/AM 1107) or call DSN 496-6119 or commercial 06302 67 6119 for weather updates and warnings.

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

You will become intimately familiar with your garbage while living in Germany. Recycling here is mandatory. Your responsibilities for sorting your garbage will depend on the rules of the village in which you live. Some counties supply bins while others, in addition to bins, require you to pick up rolls of colored bags (for different categories of garbage).

Your county house (Landkreis Kaiserslautern, for example), landlord, and/or the Housing Referral Office at Vogelweh or Ramstein can help you to determine what your region requires and assist you in accessing your local garbage/recycling schedule. This information may also be available online.

In Kaiserslautern, for example, waste management details may be found online (in English) at [www.kaiserslautern-kreis.de/abfallwirtschaft/muell\\_tipps/muelltipps\\_englisch/index\\_muelleng.htm](http://www.kaiserslautern-kreis.de/abfallwirtschaft/muell_tipps/muelltipps_englisch/index_muelleng.htm). You may also find the publications *ASK: Waste Separation Sorted!* and *Müll Tips* very useful, no matter what county you call home. Both publications are available at the German-American Community Office (Lauterstrasse 2, Kaiserslautern. Phone: 0631 363 3010/3015/3016. Email: [info@gaco-kl.de](mailto:info@gaco-kl.de)).

You will be, at a minimum, sorting your garbage into recyclables (plastic, paper, metal, glass) and waste (non-hazardous, non-recyclable) each day. Many Germans regularly compost their kitchen and garden refuse, resulting in very little waste (thus, the tiny garbage bins). Your county house may also distribute separate bio-containers for organic waste.



If you produce excess waste, please visit your county house for details on excess waste disposal options (such as bags for purchase). Families with babies in diapers, for example,

may purchase special bags for diapers. You may take the birth certificate(s) to your Rathaus to buy these bags.

Villages also set aside a few days a year for bulky item pick-up. When it is time for these pick-ups, the bulky items may be left by the curb.

A knowledgeable recycler reports that, "Each area schedules regular pickups of items not allowed in the weekly pickup (mattresses, couches, carpets) approximately every six months. You may have to make an appointment at your county house to have super-sized items picked up for disposal. To find your local date, look up the 'Abfuhrtermine' at your local Rathaus or online for your 'Kreis.'" Your landlord or neighbors may also be able to direct you to information on pick-up days for specialty items.

The KA lists the 2008 bulky item pickup dates for Kaiserslautern County online at [www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News\\_7/Say\\_good-bye\\_to\\_that\\_old\\_stuff.shtml](http://www.kaiserslauternamerican.com/artman2/publish/News_7/Say_good-bye_to_that_old_stuff.shtml).

More advice and information follows:

- "Most Rathaus have a booklet available describing what types of garbage is allowed in each container. Be aware that glass has a separate drop-off container [for some, but not all communities], usually located in each village."
- "Follow your neighbors with which cans to put out until you learn the cycle. If you have space in your house, get some larger Rubbermaids to sort the different recyclables. Keep a small covered Rubbermaid container in your kitchen for the compostable garbage."
- "The BX sometimes sells a great trash can with three dividers - two large that I use for paper and abfall [all other trash, aka Restmüll] and one small that I use for bio. I use a separate regular trash can for my gelbe [yellow recycling] sacks. It holds a lot and works well for me. The can is also sold at Toom but for quite a bit more money."
- Base recycling centers are also an option:
  - Ramstein (*Directions:* Enter Ramstein at the West Gate. Follow road. Take a right at the Burger King. Take the third right out of the traffic circle.)
  - Vogelweh (*Directions:* From the Vogelweh Gate by the PX/PowerZone complex, follow the road to the stop light. Turn left at the light onto Kansas Street. Follow road into Kapaun Air Base. Take at right (exiting the priority road) onto Sixth Avenue. The center is located on your right across from a huge parking lot).

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Your off-base preschool options include:

- **Faith Baptist School** (kindergarten through fifth grade) in Einsiedlerhof (in the *Find-It Guide* under *Education*, [www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat\\_id=255](http://www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat_id=255)).
- **Children's Learning Academy** (CLA) in Mackenbach (in the *Find-It Guide* under *Day Care*, [www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat\\_id=181](http://www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat_id=181)).
- **Agape** (in the 2007 print edition of the *Find-It Guide* under *Education*).
- **German preschools** - "Kindergarten" - are also an option. American students are accepted on a space-available basis in German schools. One Third Air Force A-Staff mom shares her story here:

"My 4 year old goes to German Preschool/Kindergarten and is doing very well. There are several other American children in her class, which helped with socializing. The teachers speak mostly German which is great if you want your children to try to learn the language. A few teachers however do speak decent English, but some do not speak English at all. This is a great option if you are interested in immersing your child into the German culture. However the class itself is not as academic-based as a typical American Preschool. Our village



school is more like a Montessori Program where they mix the ages 3 to 6 years old in one room. They learn mostly through play. Another advantage is financially it is more affordable than some of the other preschools in the area. I only pay 54 euros a month vs. 165 euros at [an] American-run school. Plus, I have the option of sending her every day if I want from 8am to 2pm, but I don't

have to. They do have monthly outings with the children with walks in the woods, and there are also some social events for the parents. The only thing for me that is unfortunate is that I don't feel like I can be as involved in the school as I probably would be at an American school because of the language barrier."

For more information on this preschool, please contact St. Dominikus Catholic Kindergarten in Kirchenarnbach. Phone: 06371 46 8925.

## YOUR BELOVED COMPANIONS

(By Cathy Hughes, Third Air Force A-Staff Spouse)

### IS THERE A TLF FOR PEOPLE WITH PETS?

Six of 30 new pet-friendly TLF units are ready at Ramstein. According to the KA, “Ramstein Inns provides all the basic pet paraphernalia, such as a kennel, food dish, litter box, and even a flea collar during the summer months.” Pet-friendly TLF units fill quickly, so make your reservations as soon as you receive orders. If you are not placed in one of these pet-friendly rooms and on-base lodging is available, the Ramstein Lodging Office now requires you to kennel your pet while you stay on base. Please contact the Ramstein Lodging Office at DSN 480-4920 or commercial 06371 47 4920 for updates and more information. (Sources: *Kaiserslautern American* - 11/7/2007; Ramstein Lodging Office)

### WHERE CAN I FIND A VETERINARIAN?

Veterinary Practice Delorme-Goldberg at Daimlerstrasse 7 in Landstuhl. The veterinarians care for all kinds of domesticated animals and the staff does speak English. Their telephone number is 06371 914314 and the website address is [www.landstuhlvet.de](http://www.landstuhlvet.de).

The Kaiserslautern Veterinary Treatment Facility also offers services to military members. (Pulaski Kaserne, Building 2928. Phone: 0631 3406 4444.)

More veterinary options are listed in the *Find-It Guide*, online at [www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat\\_id=212](http://www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat_id=212) (off base) and [www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat\\_id=153](http://www.finditguide.de/military.php?cat_id=153) (on base).

### IS THERE A GOOD KENNEL IN THE AREA?

Berghof Kennel, located at Country Road L-469 in Mittelbrunn, offers boarding of all sizes of dogs (even the giant breeds!) and cats. Be sure to call them (Phone: 06371-468 472) first for directions!

Rainbow Farm Kennels in Landstuhl is also recommended. (Phone: 06371 914619. Online: [www.rainbow-farm.com/our\\_service.html](http://www.rainbow-farm.com/our_service.html))



You may also want to consider The Farm Kennel in Bruchmühlbach-Miesau. Though “a little farther away,” it is located right off the A6 Autobahn. The English-speaking staff is helpful. Owners may visit and walk pets during business hours. Visit the kennel’s website at [www.tierpension-farm-kennel.de/html/english.html](http://www.tierpension-farm-kennel.de/html/english.html) or call for more information (Phone: 06372 8070).



Marion Mayer (Phone: 06372 62140) accepts dogs on a space available basis in her home (unkenneled).

The *Find-It Guide* lists more kennel options at [www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat\\_id=210](http://www.finditguide.de/business.php?cat_id=210).

## **CAN I TRAVEL WITH MY DOG?**

To travel within the European Union, cats and dogs must have a new blue EU passport issued from the country they are residing in as well as the ISO Microchip. The local military vet clinics as well as the German vet clinics can issue you the passport. Some countries do require a recent health certificate. Check with your veterinarian for more details.

## **DOES MY PET NEED TO BE MICROCHIPPED? WHAT MICROCHIP SHOULD I HAVE?**

Animals must now have an ISO-compatible microchip prior to entering Germany. AVID and Home Again were not ISO-compatible and you may need to bring or rent a personal scanner to use at customs. Stateside military vets should know and have ISO Chips. You can also have an ISO-compatible microchip injected at the local German vet.

## **IS THERE A DOG PARK IN THE AREA?**

Yes! The fenced-in park is in the far northwest corner of Ramstein housing, between Buildings 841 and 844, which are on Kansas Street and New York Avenue, and west of Texas Boulevard. The park is about 1/3 the size of a football field.

Rules of the park are:

- Dogs must be leashed when entering or leaving the park
- Owners must remain in the fenced area with their dog while the dog is off leash
- Owners must carry a leash with them at all times while in the park
- Dogs showing signs of aggression must be leashed and immediately removed from the park
- No dogs under the age of four months, or those who have not received a complete round of vaccinations
- No food in the park
- Children must be at least 9 years old to accompany their dog without an adult
- Bring a pooper scooper to remove all doggie waste

(Source: *Kaiserslautern American* – 10/19/2007)

## IS THERE DOG TRAINING AVAILABLE?

Axel Hehl, offers dog training courses, including Puppy Kindergarten and the AKC's Good Canine Citizen Test, at the Rod & Gun Club on Vogelweh. Phone: 01632315451. Email: [axel1712@yahoo.de](mailto:axel1712@yahoo.de).

## WHERE DO I FIND A PET STORE?

A pet store is called "Zoohandlung." A German chain of this type of store is "Freschnapf" and there is one located at Mainzer Straße 109D in Kaiserslautern. This is similar to Petsmart, albeit smaller, and you can still bring your dog inside.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY?

Pets and owners can be certified to participate in an American Red Cross "Pet Visitation Program" at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Please contact the Red Cross at Landstuhl. Phone: DSN 486-7298 or commercial 06371 86 7298. (Source: *Kaiserslautern American* - 11/9/2007)

## LANGUAGE

Whether you choose to hire a private tutor, enroll in a class, or memorize one word a day, your efforts to learn the language will tremendously enhance your experience abroad. One spouse encourages, "Don't be nervous to get out; it's amazing how much you can do by trying and pointing; try to say something and the person will often help you with the pronunciation."

More advice and information follows:

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS, CDs, AND PROGRAMS

Davies, Helen. (2006). *Internet-Linked Germany Dictionary for Beginners*. London: Usborne Books.

"Good for kids," says one mom.

*Instant German Deluxe v 2.0*. (2005). Renton, Wash.: TOPICS Entertainment.

"We ordered *Instant Immersion German Deluxe v 2.0* CDs that we listen to in the car," reports a spouse. "We also have our handy translation book that I keep in my purse."

Kershul, Kristine. (2005). *German in 10 Minutes a Day*. Seattle, Wash.: Bilingual Books.

Rosetta Stone Online Language Learning Program.

You may enroll (space available) in this free language program offered through the USAFE libraries. Go to [www.usafelibraries.org](http://www.usafelibraries.org) and click on Rosetta Stone for more information and to set up an account. (Ramstein Library, Building 409. Phone: DSN 480-6667 or commercial 06371 47 6667)

## CLASSES

- **German language classes** are offered at the Army Education Center. Please contact Viktoria Ehrhardt for information on class schedules. (Phone: 0631 72255)
- **German Conversational Classes** are offered at the Vogelweh Community Center. (Phone: 0151 57215857)
- **Learn German with Your Preschooler** at the Vogelweh Community Center. Meets twice a week from 1000-1130. Cost: \$90. Includes a snack. (Phone: 0151 57215857)

One student gives it the thumbs-up: “3/4 of the class was [comprised of] repeat customers so I think that speaks volumes for the teacher Petra (German wife of a retired military member). There are lots of different activities - coloring, songs, games, crafts - all keeping the kids involved. There are themes to the weeks, plus things like songs that repeat week to week too. I know I'm going to benefit a lot too. There are lots of handouts with the vocabulary, songs, etc., so no need to write things down!”

- **Adult Continuing Education (ACE)**. Multiple levels of German instruction. Also Italian, Spanish, French and ESL. (Building 2120, Ramstein. Phone: DSN 480-6043 or commercial 06371 47 6043)
- **Ramstein Youth Center's German classes for kids**. Meets Mondays. Cost: About \$200 for a year of classes. Payments may be made monthly. A 10% discount is offered to those who pay three months in advance and show a club card at the time of payment. (Phone: DSN 480-6444 or commercial 06371 47 6444)

Class times by age:

1400-1445	Ages 3-5	Immersion
1445-1530	Ages 5-12	Immersion
1530-1615	Ages 6-8	Beginner
1615-1700	Ages 9 & up	Beginner
1700-1745	Ages 6-8	Immersion
1745-1830	Ages 9 & up	Immersion

## USEFUL GERMAN PHRASES

(By Cathy Hughes, Third Air Force A-Staff Spouse)

### Politeness

Please/You're Welcome – Excuse Me – Thank You  
**Bitte – Entschuldigen Sie! – Danke**

### At the Store

Milk – Cake – Bread – Egg(s)  
**Milch – Kuchen – Brot – Ei(er)**

Vegetables – Fruit  
**Gemüse – Obst**

Yogurt – Cheese  
**Joghurt – Käse**

Meat – Veal – Beef – Pork – Ground  
**Fleisch – Kalb – Rind – Schweine – Hack**

Ham – Duck – Turkey – Chicken  
**Schinken – Ente – Pute – Hähnchen/Huhn**

### At the Restaurant

Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner  
**Frühstück – Mittagessen – Abendessen**

With – Without – Eat in – To Go  
**Mit – Ohne – Hier – Mitnehmen**

Hot – Cold – Spicy – Sweet – Sour  
**Heiß – Kalt – Scharf – Süß – Sauer**

Coffee – with cream – with sugar  
**Kaffee – mit Sahne – mit Zucker**

Iced Tea – (Apple) Juice – Water  
**Eistee – (Apfel) Saft – Wasser**

Check, please!  
**Zahlen, bitte!**

Where's the restroom/toilet?  
**Wo ist die Toilette (WC – “vay-cay”)?**